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Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on an in-depth evaluation of political affairs

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit his comments on the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on an in-depth evaluation of political affairs (E/AC.51/2006/4). The Secretary-General welcomes the report, is of the view that the position of the Secretariat has been adequately reflected therein, and provides additional comments for purposes of further clarification.

* E/AC.51/2006/1.

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Comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on an in-depth evaluation of political affairs

1. With regard to paragraph 39 and table 1 (lines a, b and d) of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in E/AC.51/2006/4, it appears that the total number of regular budget posts (77) for subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, was based on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. It should be noted that, in context of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), an additional nine posts were established for the biennium 2006-2007 for the said subprogramme. This included 4 P-5 posts for regional divisions, 1 P-5 post and 1 P-4 post for mediation support, and 1 D-1 post, 1 P-3 post and 1 General Service (Other level) post for provision of support to regional and subregional organizations.

2. With regard to paragraph 39 and table 1 (line o) of the report, the number of special political missions indicated includes not only those emanating from decisions of the General Assembly and/or the Security Council but also the political activities carried out as part of the Secretary-General's good offices function and other political initiatives of the Secretary-General.

3. Similarly, in table 2, the number of special political missions reflected includes not only those emanating from decisions of the General Assembly and/or the Security Council but also the political activities carried out as part of the Secretary-General's good offices function and other political initiatives of the Secretary-General.

4. The Secretary-General has taken note of the statement by the Office, in paragraph 47 of its report, that trust funds "... provide critical support for the mandated work of regional divisions that are not covered by the regular budget". It should be noted that the biennial programme budgets are prepared, presented to and approved by the General Assembly on the basis of mandates. The trust funds provide critical support for the mandated work of the regional divisions and supplement the regular budgetary resources appropriated for the regional divisions.

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